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# Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed).

— ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe). — ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover).

1. English language—Dictionaries.

PE1628.M36 1994

423—dc20

93-32603

CIP

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Made in the United States of America

789101112RMcN94

**acre-foot** \a-kər-foot/ *n* (1900): the volume (as of irrigation water) that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot  
**acre-inch** \a-kər-ɪnʃ/ *n* (ca. 1909): one twelfth of an acre-foot  
**acrid** \a-krid/ *adj* [modif. of *L. acris*, *acer* sharp — more at *EDGE*] (1712) 1: sharp and harsh or unpleasantly pungent in taste or odor 2: deeply or violently bitter 3: ACRIMONIOUS (an ~ denunciation) *syn* see CAUSTIC — **acrid-ly** \a-kri-dē-lee/ *adv* — **acrid-ness** *n*  
**acridine** \a-kri-dēn/ *n* (ca. 1877): a colorless crystalline compound  $C_{10}H_7N$  occurring in coal tar and important as the parent compound of dyes and pharmaceuticals  
**acridine orange** *n* (ca. 1909): a basic orange dye structurally related to acridine and used esp. to stain nucleic acids  
**acri-fla-vine** \a-kri-ˈflā-vēn/ *n* [acridine + *flavine*] (1917): a yellow dye  $C_{18}H_{11}N_3Cl$  used as an antiseptic esp. for wounds  
**Ac-ri-lan** \a-kri-ˈlan/ *n* [trademark] — used for an acrylic fiber  
**ac-ri-mo-ni-ous** \a-kri-ˈmō-nē-əs/ *adj* (1775): caustic, biting, or rancorous esp. in feeling, language, or manner (an ~ dispute) — **ac-ri-mo-ni-ously** *adv* — **ac-ri-mo-ni-ous-ness** *n*  
**ac-ri-mo-ny** \a-kri-ˈmō-nē/ *n*, *pl* -nies [MF or L. *MF acrimonia*, fr. *L. acrimonia*, fr. *acer*] (1542): harsh or biting sharpness esp. of words, manner, or disposition  
**ac-ri-tarch** \a-kri-ˈtärk/ *n* [Gk *akritas* uncertain (fr. *a-* + *kritas*, verbal of *krinein* to decide) + *archē* beginning — more at *CERTAIN*, *ARCH*] (1963): any of a group of fossil one-celled marine planktonic organisms of uncertain and possibly various taxonomic affinities held to represent the earliest known eukaryotes  
**acro-bat** \a-kro-ˈbat/ *n* [F & Gk; *F. acrobate*, fr. Gk *akrobaïtes*, fr. *akros* + *bainein* to go — more at *COME*] (1825) 1: one that performs gymnastic feats requiring skillful control of the body 2: a: one skillful at exercises of intellectual or artistic dexterity b: one adept at swiftly changing or adapting a position or viewpoint (a political ~) — **acro-bat-ic** \a-kro-ˈbat-ik/ *adj* — **acro-bat-i-cal-ly** \a-ti-k(ə)-lee/ *adv*  
**acro-bat-ics** \a-kro-ˈbat-iks/ *n*, *pl* but sing or *pl* in constr. (1882) 1: the art, performance, or activity of an acrobat 2: a: a spectacular, showy, or startling performance or demonstration involving great agility or complexity b: the performance of acrobatics  
**acro-cent-ric** \a-kro-ˈsen-trik/ *adj* (1945): having the centromere situated so that one chromosomal arm is much shorter than the other — **acrocentric** *n*  
**acro-lect** \a-kro-ˈlekt/ *n* [acr- + *lect* (as in *dialect*)] (1964): the language variety of a speech community closest to the standard or prestige form of a language  
**acro-lein** \a-kro-ˈleɪn/ *n* [ISV *acr.* (fr. *L. acer*, *acer*) + *L. oleō* to smell — more at *ODOR*] (ca. 1857): a colorless irritant pungent liquid aldehyde  $C_3H_4O$  used chiefly in organic synthesis  
**acro-meg-a-ly** \a-kro-ˈmeg-ə-lee/ *n* [ISV] (1889): chronic hyperpituitarism marked by progressive enlargement of hands, feet, and face — **acro-meg-al-ic** \a-mə-ˈgal-ik/ *adj* or *n*  
**acro-nym** \a-kro-ˈnim/ *n* [acr- + *-nym*] (1943): a word (as *radar* or *snafu*) formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term — **acro-nym-ic** \a-kro-ˈnim-ik/ *adj* — **acro-nym-i-cal-ly** \a-mi-k(ə)-lee/ *adv*  
**acrop-et-al** \a-kro-ˈpē-tl/ *adj* [acr- + *-petal* (as in *centripetal*)] (1875): proceeding from the base toward the apex or from below upward (~ development of floral buds) — **acrop-et-al-ly** \a-ti-lee/ *adv*  
**acro-pho-bia** \a-kro-ˈfō-bē-ə/ *n* [NL] (ca. 1892): abnormal dread of being at a great height — **acro-pho-be** \a-kro-ˈfō-bē/ *n*  
**acrop-o-lis** \a-kro-ˈpō-lis/ *n* [Gk *akropolis*, fr. *akr-* ac- + *polis* city — more at *POLICE*] (1662): the upper fortified part of an ancient Greek city (as Athens); also: a usu. fortified height of a city or district elsewhere (as in Central America)  
**acro-some** \a-kro-ˈsōm/ *n* [ISV] (1899): an anterior prolongation of a spermatozoon that releases egg-penetrating enzymes — **acro-somal** \a-kro-ˈsō-məl/ *adj*  
**across** \a-kros/ chiefly dial. -krōst/ *adv* [ME *acros*, fr. AF *an crois*, fr. an in (fr. *L. in*) + *crois* cross, fr. *L. crux*] (14c) 1: in a position reaching from one side to the other: CROSSWISE 2: to or on the opposite side 3: so as to be understandable, acceptable, or successful (get an argument ~)  
**across prep** (1591) 1: from one side to the opposite side of: OVER, THROUGH (swam ~ the river) 2: so as to intersect or pass through at an angle (sawed ~ the grain of the wood) 3: so as to find or meet (came ~ your football in the hall closet) 4: a: THROUGHOUT (obvious interest ~ the nation) (Robert Goralski) b: so as to include or take into consideration all classes or categories (~ differences, they insist, there can be no rational dialogue — Huston Smith)  
**across adj** (1646): being in a crossed position  
**across-the-board** *adj* (1945) 1: placed to win if a competitor wins, places, or shows (an ~ racing bet) 2: embracing or affecting all classes or categories: BLANKET (an ~ price increase)  
**acros-tic** \a-kros-ˈtik/ *n* [MF & Gk; *MF acrostiche*, fr. Gk *akrostichis*, fr. *akr-* ac- + *stichos* line; akin to *stichon* to go — more at *STAIR*] (1530) 1: a composition usu. in verse in which sets of letters (as the initial or final letters of the lines) taken in order form a word or phrase or a regular sequence of letters of the alphabet 2: ACRONYM — **acrostic** also **acros-ti-cal** \a-ti-kəl/ *adj* — **acros-ti-cal-ly** \a-ti-k(ə)-lee/ *adv*  
**ac-ryl-am-ide** \a-kri-ˈl-a-mid/ *n* [acrylic + *amide*] (1946): an amide  $C_3H_5NO$  that is derived from acrylic acid, that polymerizes readily, and that is used in the manufacture of synthetic textile fibers  
**ac-ry-late** \a-kri-ˈlāt/ *n* (1873) 1: a salt or ester of acrylic acid 2: ACRYLIC RESIN  
**ac-ryl-ic** \a-kri-ˈlik/ *adj* [ISV *acrolein* + *-yl* + *-ic*] (1855) 1: of or relating to acrylic acid or its derivatives (~ polymers) 2: made or consisting of an acrylic (an ~ window)  
**acrylic** *n* (1942) 1: a: ACRYLIC RESIN b: a paint in which the vehicle is an acrylic resin c: a painting done in an acrylic resin 2: ACRYLIC FIBER  
**acrylic acid** *n* (ca. 1855): an unsaturated liquid acid  $C_3H_4O_2$  that polymerizes readily to form useful products (as constituents for varnishes and lacquers)

**acrylic fiber** *n* (1951): a quick-drying synthetic textile fiber made by polymerization of acrylonitrile usu. with other monomers  
**acrylic resin** *n* (1936): a glassy thermoplastic made by polymerizing acrylic or methacrylic acid or a derivative of either and used for cast, and molded parts or as coatings and adhesives  
**ac-ry-lo-ni-trile** \a-kro-ˈlō-ni-trīl/ *n* (1893): a colorless volatile flammable liquid nitrile  $C_3H_3N$  used chiefly in organic synthesis and for polymerization  
**act** \akt/ *n* [ME, partly fr. *L. actus* doing, act, fr. *agere* to drive, do; partly fr. *L. actum* thing done, record, fr. neut. of *agere*, pp. of *agere* — more at *AGENT*] (14c) 1: a: the doing of a thing: DEED b: something done voluntarily 2: a state of real existence rather than possibility 3: the formal product of a legislative body: STATUTE; also: a decision or determination of a sovereign, a legislative council, or a court of justice 4: the process of doing: ACTION (caught in the ~) 5: often cap.: a formal record of something done or transacted 6: one of the principal divisions of a theatrical work (as a play or opera) 7: a: one of successive parts or performances (as in a variety show or circus) b: the performer or performers in such an act c: a performance or presentation identified with a particular individual or group d: the sum of a person's actions or effects that serve to create an impression or set an example (a hard ~ to follow) 8: a display of affected behavior: PRETENSE  
**act vi** (1594) 1: a: to represent or perform by action esp. on the stage b: FEIGN, SIMULATE c: IMPERSONATE 2 obs.: ACTUATE, ANIMATE 3: to play the part of as if in a play (~ the man of the world) 4: to behave in a manner suitable to (~ your age) ~ *vi* 1: to perform on the stage b: to behave as if performing on the stage: PRETEND 2: to take action: MOVE (think before ~ing) (~ed favorably on the recommendation) 3: to conduct oneself: BEHAVE (~ like a fool) 4: to perform a specified function: SERVE (trees ~ing as a windbreak) 5: to produce an effect: WORK (wait for a medicine to ~) 6 of a play: to be capable of being performed (the play ~s well) 7: to give a decision or award (adjudged without ~ing on the bill) — **act-abil-ity** \ak-tə-ˈbi-lē-tē/ *n* — **act-able** \ak-tə-ˈbəl/ *adj*  
**Ac-tae-on** \ak-ˈtē-ən/ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Aktaiōn*] : a hunter turned into a stag and killed by his own hounds for having seen Artemis bathing  
**ACTH** \ä-(j)ē-(j)ē-ˈäch/ *n* [adrenocorticotrophic hormone] (1944): a protein hormone of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex — called also *adrenocorticotrophic hormone*  
**ac-tin** \ak-tən/ *n* [ISV, fr. *L. actus*] (1942): a cellular protein found esp. in microfilaments (as those comprising myofibrils) and active in muscular contraction, cellular movement, and maintenance of cell shape  
**actin- or actini- or actino-** *comb form* [NL, ray, fr. Gk *aktin*, *aktino*, fr. *aktis*, *aktis*: perb. akin to OE *āht* morning twilight, *L. noct*, *nox* night — more at *NIGHT*] 1: having a radiate form (actinolite) 2: actinic radiation (as X-rays) (actinometer)  
**act-ing** \ak-tin/ *n* (1664): the art or practice of representing a character on a stage or before cameras  
**act-ing** *adj* (1797) 1: holding a temporary rank or position: performing services temporarily (~ president) 2: a: suitable for stage performance (an ~ play) b: prepared with directions for actors (an ~ text of a play)  
**ac-tin-i-an** \ak-ˈti-nē-ən/ *n* [NL *actinia*, fr. Gk *aktin*, *aktis*] (1888): SEA ANEMONE  
**ac-tin-ic** \ak-ˈti-nik/ *adj* (1844): of, relating to, resulting from, or exhibiting actinism — **ac-tin-i-cal-ly** \a-ti-k(ə)-lee/ *adv*  
**ac-tin-i-de** \ak-tə-ˈnid/ *n* [ISV] (1945): any of the members of the series of elements that begins with actinium and ends with lawrencium — see *PERIODIC TABLE* table  
**ac-tin-ism** \ak-tə-ˈni-zəm/ *n* (1844): the property of radiant energy esp. in the visible and ultraviolet spectral regions by which chemical changes are produced  
**ac-tin-i-um** \ak-ˈti-nē-əm/ *n* [NL] (1900): a radioactive trivalent metallic element that resembles lanthanum in chemical properties and that is found esp. in pitchblende — see *ELEMENT* table  
**ac-tin-o-lite** \ak-ˈti-nl-īt/ *n* (ca. 1828): a bright or grayish green amphibole occurring in fibrous, radiate, or columnar forms  
**ac-tin-o-m-e-ter** \ak-tə-ˈnō-mē-tər/ *n* (1833): any of various instruments for measuring the intensity of incident radiation; esp.: one in which the intensity of radiation is measured by the speed of a photochemical reaction — **ac-tin-o-m-e-tric** \a-tin-ō-mē-trik/ *adj* — **ac-tin-o-m-e-try** \a-tin-ō-mē-trē/ *n*  
**ac-tin-o-mor-phic** \ak-(j)ti-nō-mōr-fik, -tə-nō-, ak-ti-nō-/ *adj* [ISV] (1900): being radially symmetrical and capable of division by any longitudinal plane into essentially symmetrical halves (an ~ tulip flower) — **ac-tin-o-mor-phy** \ak-tə-nō-mōr-fē, ak-ti-nō-/ *n*  
**ac-tin-o-my-ces** \ak-(j)ti-nō-mi-sēz, -tə-nō-, ak-ti-nō-/ *n*, *pl* actinomyces [NL, genus name, fr. *actin* + Gk *mykē*, *mykēs* fungus; akin to Gk *myxa* mucus — more at *MUCUS*] (1882): any of a genus (*Actinomyces*) of filamentous or rod-shaped bacteria that includes *usu.* commensal and sometimes pathogenic forms inhabiting mucosal surfaces esp. of the oral cavity of warm-blooded vertebrates  
**ac-tin-o-my-cete** \-mi-sēt, -mi-sē/ *n* [ultim. fr. Gk *aktin*, *aktis* + *mykē*, *mykēs*] (1911): any of an order (Actinomycetales) of filamentous or rod-shaped bacteria (as the actinomycetes and streptomycetes) — **ac-tin-o-my-ce-tous** \-mi-sē-təs/ *adj*  
**ac-tin-o-my-cin** \-mi-sin/ *n* (1940): any of various red or yellow-red mostly toxic polypeptide antibiotics isolated from soil bacteria (esp. *Streptomyces antibioticus*); *specif*: one used to inhibit DNA or RNA synthesis  
**ac-tin-o-my-co-sis** \-mi-kō-sis/ *n* [NL] (1882): infection with or disease caused by actinomycetes; esp.: a chronic disease of cattle, swine, and humans characterized by hard granulomatous masses *usu.* in the mouth and jaw — **ac-tin-o-my-co-tic** \-kə-tik/ *adj*

\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ mop, mar  
 \au/ out \ch/ chin \el/ bet \ē/ easy \e/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job  
 \ŋ/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \ōi/ boy \i/ thin \i/ the \ū/ loot \ū/ foot  
 \y/ yet \zh/ vision \ā, k, ʰ, æ, œ, ū, ē, ē, see Guide to Pronunciation